

ABSTRACT

A method of forming a ceramic material or body comprises the steps of:-

- i) providing a water-containing mixture of raw materials
- ii) forming said mixture into a shape
- iii) removing water from said shape
- iv) firing said shape at a temperature sufficient to effect sintering and/or reaction of the raw materials and thereby form a ceramic material or body

in which the raw materials include a hygroscopic polymeric material capable of retaining water in the mixture over a range of temperatures above the boiling point of water.

The hygroscopic polymeric material may be a so-called superabsorber, and the raw materials may comprise silicon carbide, graphite, sugar, and starch.